



## *Supporting Logistics in CJTF Phoenix*

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan - The Logistical Task Force of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix has a dual role as part of the force. It not only serves as the logistical backbone of the Afghan National Army and provides the full range of logistic-related services down range to the ANA and Embedded Training Teams, but also has the unique responsibility of providing or managing operational, billeting, dining, morale and welfare, and life support services on Camp Phoenix. As a consequence of this special mission, the commander of the LTF, Lt. Col. David A. Peek, also holds the title of mayor of the "village" of 2,000 task force personnel.

The LTF is staffed by approximately 335 personnel, most of who are from the 53rd Support Battalion, an organic unit of the 53rd Infantry Brigade (Separate) from the Florida National Guard. The 1129th Finance Detachment from the Tennessee National Guard supplements the LTF by providing check cashing and other financial services on Camp Phoenix and in the field.

"We are responsible for keeping this place operational," said Peek, while describing the role of the LTF in Kabul.

Each of the four companies in the Task Force has its own area of expertise.

Alpha Company is responsible for all the supply and transportation missions for CJTF Phoenix. The company is comprised of three platoons and a



Spc. James Rice, with HHC of the Logistical Task Force, delivers water to one of the sites throughout Camp Phoenix.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Henry St. Charles  
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix PAO NCO



# Gardez Road Project Builds Relationships

GARDEZ, Afghanistan - Embedded trainers with 203rd Regional Corps Assistance Group and the leadership of 203rd ANA Corps recognized an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the ANA and local community in Gardez last fall. Working together, they planned and executed a three-phase road project that dramatically improved the transportation infrastructure of the community and created important goodwill with the populace.

Members of the engineer company from 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Walli Mohamed, their battalion commander, were called upon to use their engineering skills to accomplish the mission. Maj. Gen. Roafi, 203rd Corps commander, and Col. Asadullah, garrison commander in Gardez, met with town leaders and coordinated the details of the project.



An ETT from the 203rd RCAG watches with his ANA counterparts as a grader spreads material for the road repair project.



Members of the Afghan National Army 203rd Corps observe the process of building a road base.

Photos by Maj. Maurice Eichenberger  
203rd Regional Corps Assistance Group G1

The ANA provided the gravel for the road repair, while the local police assisted with traffic control and provided a roller, grader and water truck. The 203rd Corps contributed expertise and supervision of the project through its staff engineers, the Garrison assigned soldiers for security, and the engineer company provided equipment operators and support for feeding the soldiers and maintaining the equipment.

Cpt. Ab Khalil, the ANA engineer company commander, worked with Maj. Beaver, Cpt. Flores, and Cpl. Cook, Embedded Trainers assigned to the 4th Kandak, to ensure that security was provided and that the operation started on time each day. Phase I included improving the road from the bridge to the main traffic circle in town. Phase II encompassed the road between the traffic circle and the village of Saied Karam. Phase III involved the traffic circle to the schools in Gardez. Phase III incorporated the most dramatic improvement of the roads, removing several exaggerated rolls in the surface, adding culverts to improve drainage, and ensuring this section of the thoroughfare will remain passable throughout the winter months when snow becomes an issue. All of the improvements will assist in maintaining the roads during inclement weather.

This four-day project demonstrated how cooperation can dramatically improve the relationship between local civil government and the Afghan National Army. No one group had all of the resources and abilities to complete the project on their own. Working together, however, they accomplished great things.



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headquarters element. The headquarters is made up of the command staff and a truck master. "The truck master, Sgt. 1st Class Rosario, acts like a nerve center for all the transportation moves for the Task Force," said Cpt. Gregory Wiggins, the commander of Alpha Company. The truck platoon uses tractors, trailers, forklifts, and other equipment to transport all the equipment in and around Camp Phoenix. The company also runs all the ammunition, fuel, and supply points on post. The supply platoon is responsible for the Supply Support Activity Annex and the SSA section administers the Self Service Supply Center, which warehouses all the office supplies for the Task Force and acts as a receiving center for all Class IV items. The company also supports the personnel on Camp Phoenix by augmenting different convoys on almost a daily basis.

Bravo Company is the maintenance section of the Task Force. "They have the capability of fixing all military issued equipment, to include the Ford Rangers," said Peek. Bravo has at its disposal experienced mechanics and technicians that are able to support maintenance and repair of night vision goggles and devices, communications equipment, tactical vehicles, defense systems, and a number of weapon systems. "We have more than 27 Military Occupational Specialties in our company and 68 personnel here on Camp Phoenix," explained Cpt. Roderick D. McCleod, commander of Bravo Company. The company has an automotive, electronics, armament, allied trades, air conditioning repair, and recovery teams assigned to Camp Phoenix in order to install, maintain and repair the equipment of CJTF Phoenix.

Charlie Company is the medical support element of the Task Force. Charlie is made up of the troop medical clinic, radiology, pharmacy, medical supply, optometry, dental, preventive medicine, mental health, physical therapy, veterinarian, and ambulatory services. "We are the place to come if you are an American Soldier or contract civilian in the Kabul area," said 1st Lt. David T. Oliver, executive officer for Charlie Company. The main objective of the troop medical clinic is to treat or stabilize a patient until additional medical assistance can be rendered elsewhere. But the Task Force has been able to take that objective and go even one step further. "We are proud to be one of the first three BCTs to receive a USAR physical therapy team on our staff," stated Peek. This allows some patients to be rehabilitated on Camp Phoenix rather than being moved to Bagram Air Field or back to Europe or the United States. They also support one of the few locations in Afghanistan where mental health services are provided.

The men and women of the LTF have played an important part in providing for the comforts and services that members of CJTF Phoenix have come to expect in Kabul and in the field. Their hard work and selfless service continues to ensure that our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines receive the logistical support they require in a timely and professional manner.



Sgt. Brooks Vanderzee (right), with Alpha Company of the Logistical Task Force, updates Lt. Col. David Peek, LTF commander, on the inventory in the Self Service Supply Center.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Henry St. Charles  
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix PAO NCO

Story by U.S. Army Sgt. Henry St. Charles, Combined Joint Task Force PAO NCO





## Tajbeg Palace

Located on a prominent knoll a little less than a mile southwest of the imposing ruins of the Darulaman Palace in Kabul, the Tajbeg Palace stands as a bullet-riddled reminder of the “new town” created by King Amanullah Khan in the 1920s to be the administrative center for a modern Afghan government. A popular revolt forced Amanullah to abdicate before the Palace could be used for its original purpose. Hafizullah Amin, president of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, took up residence in the mansion when he seized control of the government in 1978. On



December 27, 1979, Soviet troops, including KGB spetsnaz forces, stormed the building and killed Amin and his family. During the ensuing war, the Soviet 40th Army used the Palace as its headquarters. Today ISAF soldiers use the facility as a lookout post. Mines, cluster bombs, and a variety of other ordnance still ring the Palace, and inside can be found graffiti in several languages. One of the most ironic scribbblings is the message “S Novym Godom (Russian for Happy New Year) 1988-89”- a forlorn hope for the last Soviet soldiers who departed Afghanistan 10 days later.

Story by U. S. Army Lt. Col. Gregory Moore, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix PAO

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